

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 ACDA-12
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6603
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AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T RABAT 5321

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, CG, FR, BE, US, UK, GW, MO, SG, IV, GB, TO
SUBJ: PARIS MEETING ON AFRICAN FORCES IN SHABA: PRE-MEETING
DISCUSSIONS WITH MOROCCO

REF: A. STATE 218255, B. RABAT 5170, C. STATE 210350

1. EMBASSY COMMENT ON PROPOSED CONSULTATIONS WITH MOROCCO
ON AFRICAN FORCES IN SHABA FOLLOWS:

2. CONSULTATIONS RISK RAISING EXPECTATIONS AND STIMU-
LATING REQUESTS (MUCH AS WOULD THE INCLUSION IN A
MEETING OF COUNTRIES PROVIDING TROOPS TO SHABA).
ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD HOPE TO KEEP DISCUSSIONS LOW-
KEY. WE WOULD ATTEMPT TO DISCUSS BROADLY THE GOM
ASSESSMENT OF CONDITIONS IN ZAIRE AND ITS FUTURE

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ROLE HERE.

3. WHATEVER OUR INTENTION, THE SUBJECT OF ASSISTANCE
WILL INEVITABLY ARISE. THIS IS ALL THE MORE LIKELY
SINCE MOROCCO IS PROVIDING LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR OTHER
AFRICAN FORCES IN SHABA. MOREOVER, TWO MOROCCAN
REQUESTS ARE OUTSTANDING: FOR TRANSPORT OF APPROXIMATELY

300 ADDITIONAL TROOPS AND FOR MONEY AND EQUIPMENT FOR REPLACEMENT PURPOSES. RAISING SHABA WITH SILENCE ON THESE REQUESTS IS VERY LIKELY TO BE VIEWED AS TANTAMOUNT TO A DISINCLINATION ON OUR PART TO BE OF ASSISTANCE-- UNFORTUNATE IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT WE HAVE NOT REACHED SUCH A DECISION. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE GENERAL EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY FOR MOROCCAN SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS IN REFTEL C IS SUFFICIENT TO DISPEL THIS IMPRESSION. A MORE SPECIFIC STATEMENT WOULD HELP AVOID SUCH A REACTION, BUT AT THE SAME TIME COULD BE SUFFICIENTLY LIMITED TO AVOID UNREASONABLY RAISING MOROCCAN EXPECTATIONS.

4. ACCORDINGLY, WE PROPOSE THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO TELL THE MOROCCANS:

A. THAT WE ARE DISPOSED TO PROVIDE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR ANY EVENTUAL TROOP WITHDRAWAL, ON THE ORDER OF SUPPORT PROVIDED THE FRENCH AND BELGIANS.

B. THAT WE ARE DISPOSED TO MAKE AN EFFORT TOGETHER WITH OTHER INTERESTED STATES TO FIND A WAY TO PROVIDE REPLACEMENT FOR THE MATERIAL WHICH THE SHABA EXERCISE HAS REQUIRED. (THIS WOULD CONSTITUTE AN INTERIM RESPONSE TO THE MOROCCAN REQUEST FOR REPLACEMENT) OR ALTERNATIVELY,

C. THAT WE HAVE UNDER STUDY THE QUESTION OF REPLACEMENT OF MATERIAL USED IN THE SHABA EXERCISE.

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5. THE MOROCCANS WILL DOUBTLESS LEARN OF THE PARIS MEETING FROM THE FRENCH. IN THE CASE OF MOROCCO AT LEAST, LEARNING OF SUCH A MEETING RELATIVELY SOON AFTER A DISCUSSION HERE AT WHICH IT WAS NOT MENTIONED WOULD ENCOURAGE THE SUSPICION OF COLLUSION WHICH WE SEEK TO AVOID. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO MENTION THE PROBABILITY OF AN UPCOMING MEETING "TO REVIEW THE PROGRESS IN ZAIRE ACROSS THE BOARD" AND TO USE THE EXPLANATION PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH 7 OF REFTEL A. WE WOULD PROPOSE TO NOTE ALSO THAT THE QUESTION OF ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN STATES PARTICIPATING IN THE SAHABA FORCE WOULD NATURALLY BE ONE OF THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED.

6. EMBASSY WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR DEPARTMENT'S REACTIONS TO PROPOSALS IN PARAGRAPHS 4 AND 5 ALONG WITH DECISION ON WHETHER WE SHOULD PROCEED TO CONSULT WITH GOM. MOFFAT

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